**Prior Information Notice**

**This notice is for prior information only**

**Name and addresses: Greater Manchester Combined Authority, 56 Oxford Street, Manchester, M1 6EU**

**Information about joint procurement**

**Type of the contracting authority**

**Main activity**

General public services

**Scope of the procurement**

**Title:**

Youth Homelessness Prevention Project

**Type of contract – Services Contract**

GMCA and other local commissioners intend to commission a provider or consortium of providers to develop a new model of homelessness prevention for under 35 year olds delivered through a social outcomes based contract. GMCA are inviting expressions of interest in this opportunity.

***Social Outcomes based contract:*** estimated total value: c.£8m for the length of the contract based on and subject to confirmation of Greater Manchester Combined Authority’s Reform Investment Funding allocation and co-funded through contributions from other local commissioners across Greater Manchester. Anticipated 3 or 4 year contract

*The GMCA is committed to ensuring fairness, openness and transparency, and to following EU procurement regulations. The Prior Information Notice (PIN) is however, issued solely for the purpose of conducting pre-procurement market engagement.*

*Interested parties will not be prejudiced or advantaged by any response or lack thereof to the PIN and a response to this PIN does not guarantee any invitation to participate in any future procurement.*

*This PIN does not constitute a call for competition to procure any services, supplies or works for the GMCA. The purpose of this PIN is to identify any credible social investment fund management organisations interested in working with commissioners and stakeholders to develop an investment case for the programmes outlined above.*

*The GMCA is not liable for any costs, fees, or expenses incurred by any party in replying to the PIN.*

**1 PURPOSE**

Greater Manchester Combined Authority are looking for a provider or consortium of providers to work with a social investor design and implement a new model a new response to preventing youth homelessness in Greater Manchester and are inviting expressions of interest in this **opportunity**.

**2 BACKGROUND**

The GM Reform Investment Fund (RIF) was agreed with Government as part of the fourth Devolution Agreement for Greater Manchester announced alongside Budget 2016. The RIF has been established in order to provide a vehicle through which different Government funding lines could be brought together into a single GM pot to be invested alongside other local funding in driving system wide reform. It also provides a fund through which GM can seek to tackle some of its biggest challenges through investing in innovative responses and where possible seeking to tackle these issues further upstream.

As part of the agreement with Government the Department for Communities Media and Sport agreed an allocation from the national Life Chances Fund would be allocated to the GM Reform Investment Fund on the understanding that GM would invest in outcomes based contract. Engagement with senior leaders from Local Authorities and partners including key providers have indicated that preventing youth homelessness is an issue that there is an appetite to tackle through this approach. Subsequent analysis has been undertaken to support this aim and GM is now in a position where it is keen to understand interest from social investors in this project in advance of direct engagement with potential providers.

**3 The Challenge / Ambition**

Homelessness and rough sleeping is a significant priority for Greater Manchester. The latest version of Greater Manchester Strategy (GMS)[[1]](#footnote-1) set out the following ambition

* End rough sleeping in Greater Manchester by 2020
* Be a national leader in ending rough sleeping and reducing homelessness

Under challenging circumstances Greater Manchester is already invested in a number of high profile projects that collectively are seeking to tackle rough sleeping and reduce homelessness through investment in innovative projects and approaches. This includes the Housing First project, the Homelessness SIB, GM Homelessness trailblazer and A Bed Every Night. These projects are collectively helping to support many vulnerable people often once they have reached crisis point. There remains a challenge in how we can truly get upstream to prevent people becoming homeless in the first place. We also must recognise that for some people, particularly vulnerable young people there can be an issue with the suitability of provision such as the A Bed Every Night scheme. Indeed these issues were identified as important issues to be addressed by the recent review of A Bed Every Night undertaken by Dame Louise Casey at the request of GMCA.

Against this background GM is looking to invest in a project that will provide young people who are at risk of homelessness or homeless with a targeted intervention aimed at either preventing these circumstances whilst also equipping them with the tools they need for life and work.

Over time, and with evidence based improvements across the homelessness prevention landscape, the “system” should deliver more successful homelessness prevention interventions. This project therefore needs to not only provide a viable alternative for young people that are presenting as homeless or at risk of becoming homeless but needs to find a way in which learning can be shared and utilised in order to support this change.

As such, we believe the Youth Homelessness Prevention Intervention warrants a much stronger strategic focus from policy makers, who recognise the important proactive role that can be played by homelessness service providers of all kinds, not as passive recipients of funding but as key strategic planning and delivery partners at the heart of the communities, places and economies that they serve.

**4 PROCUREMENT APPROACH**

Innovative commissioning will form a central part of our approach to delivering GM’s objectives, focussing the system on outcomes, and addressing the funding priorities set out below. Working with a social investor/fund manager the commissioning process will:

* support GM working with existing high quality VCSE providers maximising local capacity, reducing duplication and bringing in new interventions where required
* allow GM to explore flexibility and innovation through the contracts in line with the freedoms and opportunities devolution offers
* allow GM to develop and maintain a competitive, high quality marketplace
* enable GM to undertake comprehensive due diligence: providing the best possible value for money outcome from the procurement activity
* secure additional social value for GM’s residents and communities
* develop an environment for shared learning and collaboration from the earliest stage possible
* embed new approaches within the wider context of GM’s strategy for tackling homelessness and rough sleeping but with a focus on prevention infrastructure
* assist in developing a place-based Youth Homelessness Prevention offer

The GMCA intends to procure this service by using The Competitive Procedure with Negotiation Process undertaken via The Light Touch Regime **(CPV Code 75200000-8).** The Process will allow GMCA to facilitate innovative solutionsand design inputsrequired for these services. An Indicative timeline can be found below:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Activity** | **Date** |  |
| **Market Engagement Events** | January 2019 | Engagement |
| **Issue of Supplier Suitability Questionnaire and ITT** | Early February 2020 | Application Period |
| **Expected date for submission of Tenders (stage 1)** | Early March 2020 |
| **Evaluation and Negotiations on Tender (stage 1)** | Early March – End of March 2020 | Tender Evaluation Period (Stage 1) |
| **Notification of result or issue of ITT**  **(Stage 2)** | 1st Week In April | Tender Period (Stage 2 (if required) |
| **Expected date for submission of Tenders (Stage 2** | W/c 20th April 2020 | Tender Period Stage 2 |
| **Evaluation clarification on Tender Stage 2)** | W/c 27th April - | Tender Evaluation Period (Stage 2) |
| **Contract Signature and Mobilisation** | May Onwards | Contract Period |
| **Contract Start** | June/July 2020 | Commencement |

**5 CONTRACT**

The purpose of the PIN is to identify a provider or consortium of providers that will work with a social investor to design and implement a new model a new response to preventing youth homelessness in Greater Manchester and are inviting expressions of interest in this **opportunity**.

Based on GM’s allocation of RIF, the value of procured activity for the contract will be c. £8 million, subject to securing match funding of c.£4 million from GM Commissioners.

With this in mind, GMCA’s intention is that contracts awarded from this procurement will last for 3 or 4 years. GMCA reserves the right to extend contracts for a second and third period of up to 12 months subject to funding availability, the provider’s delivery and performance against the contract, and including any changes to the overall GM budget arising from the Spending Review or adjustments to the way in which GM’s allocation is calculated by central government.

**6 FUNDING PRIORITIES**

In scoping the funding and commissioning priorities for devolved RIF provision, it is proposed that provision would fall under two specific themes as outlined below.

Through this Notice we are seeking to understand from the market whether these themes are the right ones on which to focus, to gauge the appetite, capability and capacity for delivery in GM, and to **seek initial feedback ahead of formal market engagement on any additional niche provision** currently being delivered which does not appear to fit within these themes.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Theme 1** | **Theme 2** |
| **Comprehensive Youth Homelessness Prevention to identified cohort across Greater Manchester including** (this list is not exhaustive)   * Suitable and appropriate housing solution * Progress in education, training and employment * Integrate approach with other elements of the homelessness system including GM Local Authorities and the Voluntary, Community and Social enterprise Sector | **Innovative smaller projects that secure positive outcomes and test innovative delivery models for priority cohorts and sectors, including** (this list is not exhaustive):   * Looked after Children and Care Leavers * Young People with special educational needs and disabilities * Ex-offenders * LGBTQI+ * Young People with Mental Health conditions |

Provision under **Theme 1** should be accessible to all of the identified cohort of GM residents as a mainstream offer following acceptance on to the programme.

Provision under **Theme 2** should provide targeted, intensive and innovative support. This provision might use/test different delivery models and must add value to, rather than duplicate, other services targeting these cohorts.

We would welcome views on whether differential minimum/maximum contract values for the two themes will support a diverse market by ensuring that capacity/scale issues do not preclude smaller organisations from operating in this market.

For the purposes of funding policy, one of the primary youth homelessness characteristics is their accommodation/housing status: those who are homeless and those who are threatened with homelessness:

***i) Provision for those who are homeless***

A key priority for GMCA is ensuring that homeless people across Greater Manchester have access to accommodation every night and that there should be no need for any homeless individual to sleep rough. All homeless individuals will have access to support from Local Authorities under their statutory duties. The intention is that this provision will bolster support available to individuals and offer flexible, targeted support which delivers the preventative intervention and skills that will enable them to **secure long-term sustainably housing solutions and equip individual with basic and generic skills needed for life and work.**

For homeless individuals who are reasonably close to securing a positive housing solution this may be in the form of targeted interventions such as short courses, skills programmes or outreach projects. (This list is not exhaustive.) For individuals who are further from securing a positive housing solution and need more intensive support this may take the form of more fundamental essential skills development over a longer period where the skills forms part of a package of support.

This provision should include those young people who may be homeless but require higher level of intervention to progress into a positive housing solution.

***ii) Provision for those who are threatened with homelessness***

A further key priority for GMCA is to support residents who are threatened with homelessness, in unsecure accommodation, often sofa surfing, and to progress to more secure housing solutions, and equip them with high skills and more secure employment where appropriate. Provision for individuals who are threatened with homelessness should have the primary aims of improving the security of their current accommodation and to identify log-term sustainable housing solutions for the individual.

For both types of homeless individuals, we want to better understand how homelessness prevention provision can be more innovative and build a package of support for the young person experiencing either form of homelessness that ensures a positive outcome. It will need to integrate and add value into the GM homelessness sector in a way which avoids duplication and provide appropriate housing solution pathways for residents. This will include integration with Local Authority activity and forming relationships with the VCSE sector.

Across the two themes and Youth Homelessness types, the procured provision is likely to encompass the following, recognising that some young people are likely to require several elements:

***Securing Accommodation***

GM’s Youth Homelessness Prevention intervention must deliver suitable and appropriate accommodation outcomes.

***Tenancy Skills***

GM’s Youth Homelessness Prevention intervention must deliver relevant programmes of learning that offer tenancy skills education for individuals with the aims of enabling the individual to successfully manage a tenancy. This may also include budgeting, money and debt advice.

***Mediation***

Mediation programmes that have the primary focus on resolving conflicts that may result in the young person being required to leave their current accommodation.

***Education, Training and Employment***

All individuals in GM must be equipped with the functional level of English and maths skills that are essential to help them secure and sustain employment, as well as improving social inclusion and ensuring access to services and opportunities. This may be provided by the provider themselves or sourced through an appropriate third party provider.

***Young People with Special Education Needs and / or Disabilities (SEND)***

It is recognised that there are barriers to appropriate housing solutions for young people with special educational needs and / or disabilities (SEND). For example, the availability and awareness of local provision that meets an individual’s needs; appropriate training for staff; risk assessments in mainstream institutions to support the individual with SEND; and the cost of / access to public transport.

**iii) Contributing to system change and GM’s wider response to tackling homelessness**

It is recognised that if we are to truly tackle the challenge of homelessness in Greater Manchester we need mechanisms that will help us understand the complexity of the current system, the experience of young people going through the system and how this can be improved. We will therefore be looking for providers that can play an active role in working with GM Local Authorities and other providers in the region to share learning and make recommendations for improvement.

**Expression of Interest Process**

Step 1 – Interested potential providers are required to complete the following documents:

1. General Information
2. Undertaking by Potential Providers; and
3. Request for Information

and upload their completed documents onto The Chest portal via the Messaging Service by **12:00 on Friday 20th December 2019**

1. **General Information**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Full name of your organisation: |  |
| Contact Details - Name: |  |
| Job Title: |  |
| Address: |  |
| Telephone no: |  |
| Fax No: |  |
| Mobile No: |  |
| Email Address: |  |
| Web Address (if any): |  |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Current legal status of the Potential Provider (e.g. partnership, private limited company, etc.). Please tick 1 box | |
| Sole Trader |  |
| Partnership |  |
| Public Limited Company |  |
| Private Limited Company |  |
|  | Other ( please state) |  |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Company Registration: | |
| Registration Number: |  |
| Date of Registration: |  |
| Registered Address: |  |
| VAT registration number: |  |
|  | Brief Description of Primary Business activities and services |  |

1. **Undertaking by the Potential Providers**

I/We certify that the information supplied is accurate to the best of my/our knowledge and I/we accept the conditions and undertakings requested in this document.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name\* |  |
| Signed | Duly authorised on behalf of the Potential provider  (Electronic signature required here) |
| Position |  |
| Date |  |

1. *Our People, Our Place: The Greater Manchester Strategy* (GMCA, October 2017) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)